

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a local area network comprising a plurality of terminals for running client applications and connecting to the Internet, each of said terminals having the ability to divide a request into a plurality of packets and distribute the plurality of packets via the local area network, A method of sending data over a communications network, the method comprising the steps of

- (a) an originating terminal generating a request for a content server;
- (b) the originating terminal dividing the request into a plurality of packets;
- (c) the originating terminal distributing the plurality of packets ~~to~~between a first plurality of terminals in the local area network, each of said first plurality of terminals (110a, 110b, 110c and 110d) having a respective wide area connection to the Internet, the plurality of packets being distributed over a ~~first~~the local area network;
- (d) ~~the~~each of said first plurality of terminals transmitting packets received during step (c) over ~~said~~ associated wide area connection to a reconstitution server located in a

~~second network, the first plurality of terminals being connected to the second network by a second plurality of connections; on the Internet; and~~

(e) the reconstitution server receiving the plurality of packets and sending the plurality of packets to the content server.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising the further steps of:

(f) the content server sending content data to the reconstitution server in response to the request received in step (e), the data being sent as a plurality of content data packets;

(g) the reconstitution server distributing the plurality of content data packets to the first plurality of terminals over the second plurality of respective wide area connections;

(h) the first plurality of terminals sending the plurality of content data packets to the originating terminal; and

(i) the originating terminal receiving the plurality of content data packets to re-create the content data.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein in step (c) and/or step (g), the plurality of packets are distributed to the first plurality of terminals in a round-robin basis.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the round-robin distribution of the plurality of packets is weighted.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, whereon the round-robin weighting is determined in accordance with the bandwidth of the respective wide area connection between the terminal and the second-network-Internet.

6. (Currently Amended) A communications network comprising;
~~a first plurality of terminals, each terminal configured for running client applications and connecting to the Internet, the terminals being connected by a first local area network and at least some of said terminals having a second plurality of connections to a second network, respective wide area connection to the Internet, said plurality of terminals each having the ability to divide a request into a plurality of packets and distribute the plurality of packets via the local area network;~~

~~the second network comprising Internet including a reconstitution server and a plurality of content servers, wherein, in use, an originating terminal in the local area network generates a request for one of the content servers, divides the request into a plurality of packets and distributes the plurality of packets between the first plurality of terminals via the first local area network; and~~

~~the plurality each of said plurality of terminals configured for sending packets are sent received to the reconstitution server via the second plurality of respective wide area connections, and the reconstitution server sends the plurality of packets to the content server.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 6, wherein, in use,

the content server sends content data to the reconstitution server in the form of a plurality of content data packets,

the reconstitution server distributes the plurality of content data packets between the ~~first~~-plurality of terminals over the ~~second~~-plurality of respective wide area connections,

the ~~first~~-plurality of terminals distributing route the plurality of content data packets to the originating terminal; and

the originating terminal ~~receiving~~ receives the plurality of content data packets and ~~re-creating~~ creates the content data.

8. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 6, wherein ~~the first~~ one or more of said plurality of terminals is ~~greater~~ has more than ~~the second~~ plurality of connections, one respective wide area connection.

9. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 6, wherein the ~~first~~-plurality of local area network comprises one or more terminals is less than the ~~second~~ plurality of connections, further to said plurality of terminals, not having a wide area connection.

10. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 6, wherein each of the first plurality of active terminals in the local area network comprises a list identifying the other active terminals.

11. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 10, wherein, in use, each active terminal periodically sends a first status message to the other terminals in the local area network to indicate that it is active.

12. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 10, wherein an active terminal sends a second status message to the other terminals in the local area network prior to becoming inactive.

13-15. (Cancelled)